NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Panipat Refinery Project is being funded from the internal resources of IOC. No foreign collaboration for financial tie up has been envisaged. The foreign exchange component required will be arranged by means of loan from the international market as and when required.

(b) At present, there is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) Requirements under the Environmental regulations will be complied with to contain any possible pollution from the refinery.

ONGC's Project in Hanoli

1772. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC had undertaken an offshore field project for oil exploration in Hanoli;

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects;

(c) what progress has so far been made in the execution of the project;

(d) whether it is also a fact that after drilling for months and spending about 30 million dollars the ONGC engineers left the project in panic;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of amount spent;

(f) whether it is a fact that ONGC had sold 45 per cent of its shares of the projects in British Petroleum; if so, at what cost, under what circumstances and on whose orders;

(g) whether it is a fact that the cost of drilling per day for the ONGC in much more now than the work being done by British Petroleum, if so, the reasons therefore; and

(h) whether Government have made any enquiry into this enormous scandal which has caused considerable loss to India and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Limited (ONGC-VL) entered into a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with Petro-Vietnam on 19th May, 1988 to explore for petroleum in the contract area comprising blocks 6, 12 and 19 in offshore Vietnam.

(c) The Achievements so far during the exploration Phase I (May 1988 to May 1992) and exploration phase II (October 1992 till date) are as under:

Phase I

(i) seismic survey of 4000 LKMs completed.

(ii) two wells drilled.

Phase II.

(iii) 2D seismic survey—6375 LKM completed.

(iv) 3D seismic survey—435 SKM completed.

(v) site survey—9 areas completed.

(vi) Number of wells drilled—3

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) After completion of exploration Phase I, ONGC-VL, with the approval of the Government, assigned 45% of its interest in the venture to an alliance of British Petroleum of U.K. and Statoil of Norway. The assignment was one with a view to sharing the exploration risk with other companies, so that a more comprehensive exploration programme could be implemented.

(g) No, Sir.